



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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The United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois would like to make CMECF filers aware of certain concerns related to a software application or "plug-in" called RECAP, which was designed by a group from Princeton University to enable sharing of court documents on the Internet.

Once a user loads RECAP, documents that he or she subsequently accesses via PACER are automatically sent to a public Internet repository. Other RECAP/PACER users are then able to see whether documents are available from the internet repository. RECAP captures District and Bankruptcy Court documents, but has not yet incorporated Appellate Court functionality. At this time, RECAP does not appear to provide users with access to restricted or sealed documents. Please be aware that RECAP is "open-source" software, which can be freely obtained by anyone with Internet access and modified for benign or malicious purposes, such as facilitating unauthorized access to restricted or sealed documents. Accordingly, CMECF filers are reminded to be diligent about their computer security practices to ensure that documents are not inadvertently shared or compromised.

Fee-exempt PACER users are reminded that the fee exemption applies only for limited purposes. Any transfer of data obtained as the result of a fee exemption granted by this court is prohibited. Therefore, fee-exempt PACER users must refrain from the use of RECAP.

All filers of documents are reminded that RECAP significantly increases the chance that a document filed in this court will be placed into the public domain. It is therefore imperative that all filers adhere diligently to the rules and best practices regarding redaction of sensitive or personal information.

The court and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts will continue to analyze the implications of RECAP or related software and advise you of any ongoing or further concerns. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

s/ Pamela E. Robinson
Clerk of Court